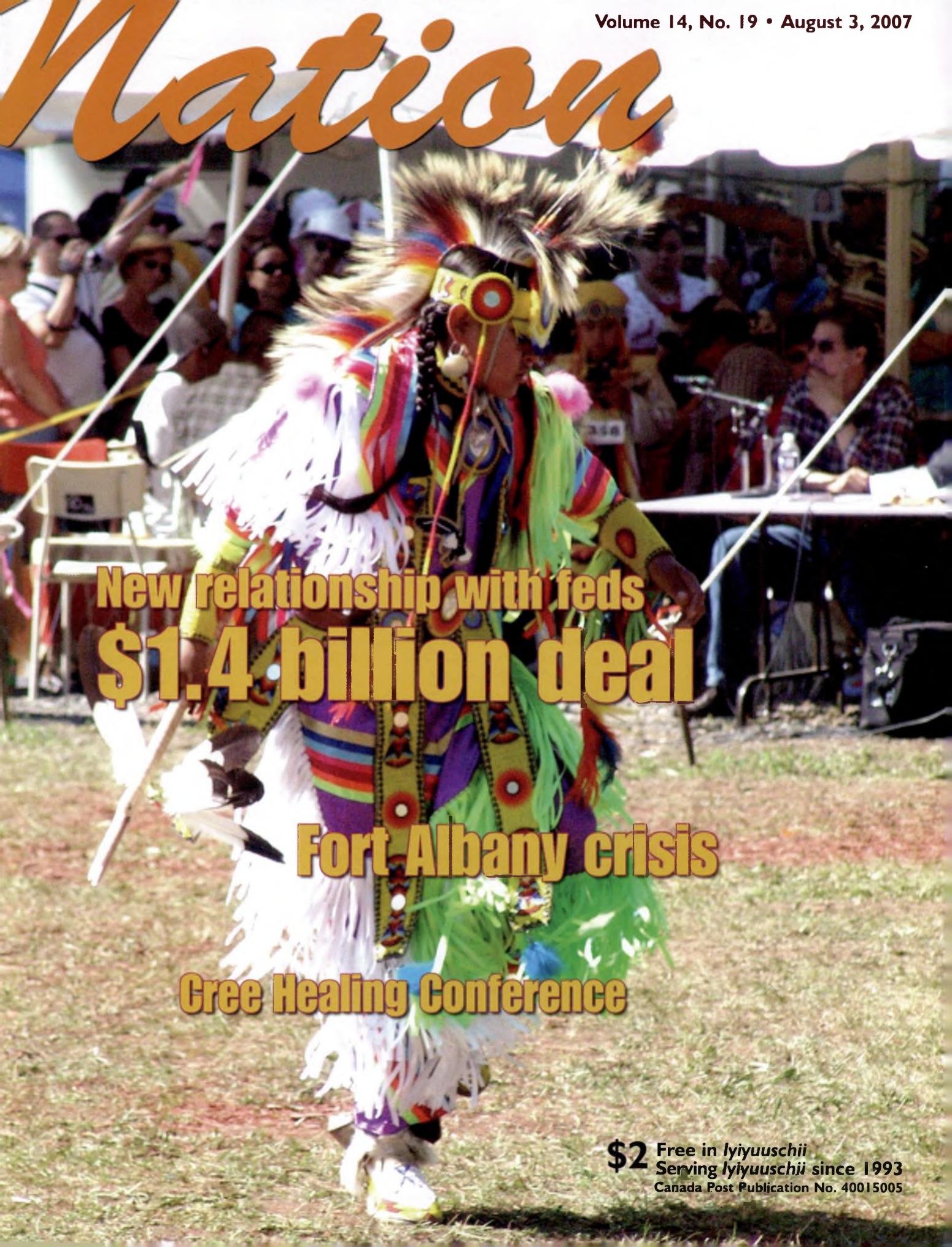


Nation

A vibrant photograph of a Native American man in full traditional regalia, including a large feathered headdress, colorful beaded vest, and a long white tail feather. He is captured in mid-dance, moving towards the left. The background shows a crowd of spectators and a stage area with equipment.

New relationship with feds
\$1.4 billion deal

Fort Albany crisis

Cree Healing Conference

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A brave new world

by Will Nicholls

I tried to summon the devil last July 16. The word was out that the Harper government was set to unveil a monumental agreement with the Cree of Eeyou Istchee. And I felt I had to at least try to verify if Hell had in fact frozen over.

I guess I'm like most other First Nations peoples: we have this image of the Conservatives as gun-loving cowboys who don't much like us "Injuns."

We all saw how they shot down the Kelowna Accord, practically the first act of "Canada's New Government" when it took office in February 2006. We all saw the Prime Minister's Office refuse to apologize on Canada's behalf to residential school victims. We couldn't help but notice how uber-assimilationist Tom Flanagan (author of *First Nations? Second Thoughts*) was selected as Harper's resident expert on easing the White Man's Burden. I could go on but you get the general idea.

I listened to all the fine remarks and speeches. There's no denying that \$1.4 billion over 20 years is like sweet manna from the heavens for some of our cash-strapped communities.

More importantly, Crees will finally see closure to 30 years of constant struggle to have the federal government respect its own signature on the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA). It will now be almost fully implemented. The outstanding matter is that we don't get our own correctional facility but that's another story and a small one at that.

The real shocker arrived when it became clear that Cree Grand Chief Matthew Mukash had delivered on the biggest plank of his campaign platform. He managed to use these negotiations to achieve a Cree Nation Governance agreement, the reality of which might be as close as five years away. I nearly passed out at this point in the news conference. I thought I had entered the twilight zone.

Just to find out how far the governance angle was going, I asked when Crees could expect to be able to hold their own separation referendum. Thank the Creator I

was on the other side of the room and avoided getting my eye poked out as reporters, journalists and other interested parties whipped out pens, tape recorders and various other paraphernalia of the media trade.

We found out there was no desire to separate but rather to continue our present nation-to-nation relationship and to work on strengthening it. Yes, we are now recognized as a distinct people but we have a lot of work to do if we are going to have even a regional government.

The next day in a Council/Board meeting I was hailed as "the Cree separatist." I guess there is only one of us now. I wonder what happened to the other brave souls who used to listen to the words of René Lévesque translated into Cree.

But all that aside, I am honestly flabbergasted and pleasantly surprised to see the Conservatives negotiating and backing an agreement such as this. It is clear, easy to read and doesn't contain any of those small-print "behind" clauses that negate all the wonderful stuff in bold 16-point type. A behind clause is where you sign it, read it and then receive a quick hard boot to the behind. The Harper government has turned not to be the bogeyman most First Nations initially thought they were.

To be fair, this process was initiated when the Liberal government was still in power. The Liberals, after all, appointed Raymond Chretien (Jean's nephew) as their negotiator, a solid signal the feds were ready to deal. But to universal shock and awe, the Tories did not send R. Chretien packing, but allowed him to complete his mandate.

So I feel I have to congratulate the Grand Council, the chiefs, Council/Board members, the negotiating team and the federal government on their hard work and ability to work together.

I also feel that our Elders provided the groundwork that went into making something like this possible and I freely endorse the Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Government of Canada and the Cree of Eeyou Istchee.

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**on the cover**

Photo: Will Nicholls

Design: Richard Little

Alice Cooper's Offspring

by
Sonny Orr



Back in the 1970s, the infamous Alice Cooper was turning heads with his trademark makeup and by being the most reptilian rock star in the world's least understood rock band. Meanwhile, Cooper penned the best tunes for adolescents everywhere while staging THE SHOW to watch. The lyrics from their best song ever, "Billion Dollar Babies," skyrocketed him to an otherworldly rock star planet.

The song has kept on going for three more decades, with almost prophetic but still glaringly hard raunchy rock. But I will now let you, dear reader, in on a secret. A secret message is decipherable only to those who play "Billion Dollar Babies" backwards at 6.66 rpm. What can be heard is eerily astounding: "... Yes, the feds will pay up... will pay 1.2 down and 200 mil later on... for 2.4 decades....whooooo..."

Yep, finally the bacon smells like it's coming home to momma and now we can get down to the business of doing business.

Wait a minute, did we say business? First, the gauntlet of community referenda must be passed, the paperwork comes later in piles of expensive glossy propaganda to woo the voter. And the moolah? Well, it's paid out in full with the usual hold back to ensure that the bills to count the money are paid and that there's still a bit left for the lawyers to nibble on when they retire.

Of course, some must be left to work on the next 25-year agreement to play catch up to the last agreements with the province now known as the Paix des Braves and to train the new legal beagle recruits on how to reap greater rewards when it comes to negotiating for more, more, more...

After much nibbling and some hefty gulps of cash, plans will be laid out to split (fairly) the rest over a period of two-point-four decades. Of course, the planning process will cost about the same as the legal process and will take longer.

After the planning process, the cash will be managed, and this will cost about the same as the planning process, except four times a year. Then the implementation will take up the rest of the last decade and a half and will cost much more due to inflation and amortization. By that time, I'll be retired with my pension plan indexed and maxed out like my credit card.

And then again, if we're really smart, we'd do it like real investments into the future, making sure that there's some payout in the end, and that the end is not so far off into the future so that the signatories will never see their dreams become reality. Whatever the case may be, we're still getting closer to the cherry on the top of the sundae and the ice cream still keeps on coming, rightfully so.

Now what about those lucrative spin-off projections from the forestry and mining much foretold in the Paix des Braves?

So far, forestry is taking a beating with the rising Canadian loonie, but I hear there's gold in them thar hills, with a bit of radiation mixed in for good measure, all of which will be cashed in sometime soon. Having a uranium mine and a gold mine might foretell that one day money will glow in the dark. The richer you are, the more you radiate success.

But Alice put it best in his eternal, lyrical wisdom: "Reckless like a gambler, million dollar maybe / Foaming like a dog that's been infected by the rabies / Million dollar baby / Billion dollar baby..."

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ANOTHER KASHECHEWAN IN THE MAKING?

Fort Albany deals with extreme mould, spreading disease

by Steve Bonspiel

The Cree community of Fort Albany, Ontario, is in a crisis that looks to some like a repeat of the horrors that residents of their sister community, Kashechewan, have endured over the past four years.

Serious cases of mould, fungus and dangerous toxins contaminate 26 houses that are less than seven years old, according to Mushkegowuk Council Deputy Chief Leo Friday.

"I think we have to really inspect the problem and come up with an assessment fast," Friday told the *Nation*. "A lot of kids are getting sick."

One extreme case discovered during a July 19 visit by outraged Members of Parliament and health officials concerned a boy suffering from Atopic Dermatitis. He has since become the poster child for what went wrong.

"We are looking at a health horror story," said Charlie Angus, NDP MP for the riding of Timmins James Bay. "In some houses we found elders sleeping in homes with rotted floors. In another home we saw a young child who is relying on steroids and ventilators to keep down the swelling and sores that are covering his entire body. These are families living with unbelievable levels of mould, fungus and toxins."

Angus called on Indian Affairs to come up with a solution quickly.

"INAC needs to learn the lessons of Kashechewan," he said. "They have been missing in action on this file. They can't sit back and wait for this latest James Bay crisis to blow over. They need to come to the table and take some responsibility."

Deputy Chief Friday said poor construction and bad drainage in the affected houses are most likely to blame. Although it was unclear who built the houses, the band's housing inspector would have to have signed off on them. But Friday said there might be more to it than just a signature.

"I don't think there was enough funding to properly construct the houses in the first place," said Friday, although he did not use it as an excuse for the current situation. "I don't know what to say, it's a terrible situation that I hope is fixed soon."

After the initial meeting of MPs, health officials, the Mushkegowuk Council and the Fort Albany band council July 19, a follow up visit five days later looked to foster a temporary solution.

Dr. Robert Gabor from the James Bay Weeneebayko Hospital issued his medical opinion July 19. He was appalled with what he saw.

"One of the houses in particular, there was a really strong, musty odour in the entire house no matter where you went," he said. "We saw visible mould growing in one of the houses in every single room. There were definite signs of water damage; you can see mould and the flooding that took place."

Dr. Gabor said his job was to raise awareness of the health hazards of dampness and visible mould, which may indicate a rather wide range of exposure.

"There's bacteria in these kinds of environments, there's volatile organic compounds, there's dust mites, there's cockroach-

es," said Gabor, who also mentioned the dampness-related chemical release from building materials.

Dr. Gabor said that there are quite a number of people from Fort Albany who come into the hospital with asthma problems triggered by mould. He also said a severe attack can be life threatening, stressing the importance of fixing the problem immediately.

The inspectors entered five houses, four of which are less than seven years old. Dr. Gabor said he is not a qualified building inspector, but the condition of the interior of the houses was substandard at best.

He said that there is most likely an association between the health conditions of the people and the poor construction and

"I THINK THE LAND IS NOT DRAINED PROPERLY, I DON'T THINK THE FOUNDATIONS ARE APPROPRIATE. THEY'RE MADE OF CINDER BLOCK AND THEY'RE NOT INSULATED."

water damage that has gone unresolved for too long, although he lacks proof.

"I think there are basic violations of building code that went on during the construction of these houses. I think the land is not drained properly, I don't think the foundations are appropriate. They're made of cinder block and they're not insulated. So even in areas where there is no flooding or the flooding has dried up, there is still evidence of constant water damage."

Dr. Gabor said that he does not feel the need to evacuate community members. He does however suggest immediate relocation to currently vacant houses within Fort Albany until it is decided what, if anything, can be done about the infected homes.

"There was water damage in areas of the home that was well above ground level," he said. "The floors of the children's bedrooms are a minimum of a metre and a half above ground, so you know this water is seeping and constantly being sucked up from the basement level or the ground level. That's unacceptable and dangerous."

Kashechewan became a horrible example of what is wrong with the current reserve system in Canada. The community was evacuated three times in three years and the local elementary school has been shut down because of flooding of the nearby dyke.

They dealt with severe mould problems as well and are currently weighing their options on moving the community – which has a potable water system that is downstream from their sewage plant – to Timmins, or to stay in their territory and move 10 kilometres upstream.

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"I NOTICED WHEN THE KIDS EAT HEALTHY FOOD THEY'RE LESS HYPER AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO COOK HEALTHY FOODS FOR THE KIDS TO PROMOTE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE."

Whapmagoostui's recipe for healthy living

Local chef Nelly George cooks up a food revolution

by Steve Bonspiel

With epidemic rates of diabetes and obesity, Eeyou Istchee desperately needs healthier eating habits. Whapmagoostui chef Nelly George's solution targets the early stages of a child's life — when he or she develops their taste for food at the local daycare.

"I learned a lot from my mother, she taught me how to cook healthy food," George said in explaining her penchant for greens.

"There was also a chef who came here, Chef Hop, who showed me other ways to cook healthy food. He showed me low-calorie snacks for the kids and ways to use less sugar. He also introduced me to more nutritious foods."

George cooks for children who don't usually get a chance to eat this healthy at home. Sometimes George admitted that she has to trick them to eat the good stuff.

"When I try something new, they don't eat it right away," she said. "Sometimes I'll blend in vegetables with other foods and they don't know what they're eating, but it's good for them. When I make spaghetti sauce I blend the vegetables in."

Traditional food also gets a health-minded preparation, she pointed out. "I cook goose with vegetables and whole-wheat dumplings. I drain the fat from the broth as well."

George said she uses dips with fruit or unsweetened applesauce to expose them to new things and the children eventually come around to liking it.

She used to work as an early childhood educator, but decided many years ago to become a chef. She has held the position at the daycare for six years.

"I noticed when the kids eat healthy food they're less hyper," said George. "And it's important to cook healthy foods for the kids to promote a healthy lifestyle."

She posts the daily menu at the entrance of the daycare so parents always know what their kids are eating. She even got the

chance to cook for her two youngest kids at the daycare a few years back, continuing the healthy cooking they received at home.

Her trick, she says, is to consult the Canada Food Guide daily and to use a component from the four major food groups in each meal. She also uses whole-wheat flour instead of white and is constantly trying new things with a healthy twist.

Whapmagoostui Daycare Director Linda Masty is ecstatic over the new menu, especially since she also has a two-year-old grandson at the daycare.

"It's a great menu," she said. "Also the way she keeps the kitchen clean, it's very important for the health of the kids."

Masty borrows tips and recipes from George to use at home. "It will help my grandson be strong," she said. "If I know that my grandson likes it, I try to cook it at home."

The community is also pleased with what George can do to make their meat healthier. People routinely donate caribou or geese or other kinds of wild game.

There are spaces at the daycare for 80 children and 70 of those are filled.

A typical day for George includes a 10 am snack, which could consist of whole-wheat pancakes and milk, followed by a nutritious lunch with veggies, game, whole wheat bread and then another light healthy snack at 3 pm.

Amelie Sabourin, Nutrition Activities Coordinator in Whapmagoostui, has only been in her position for a few weeks, but she knows the positive effect healthy cooking can have on the community.

"It's good, especially at daycare because they are kids and they're growing," said Sabourin. "If you put good ingredients, you're supporting good growth and development and healthy

continued on page 25



"Regional statistics clearly illustrate that we are living in a very important era of Cree history."



"National statistics state that the ability for First Nations to develop their own economies and create meaningful employment will definitely be tested."



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Each community will be given the opportunity to communicate their economic development plan and priorities.

Nunavik goes back to the future

Inuit hunters in Nunavik are being asked to return to dogsledding as climate change continues to eat away at ice floes, making snowmobiling increasingly dangerous, according to Martin Tremblay, an environmental researcher with the Kativik Regional Government, which oversees Quebec's Arctic region.

Inuit hunters' dependence on snowmobiles for transportation over the frozen sea is putting them at greater risk as rising temperatures are causing the ice to thin so much that heavy motorized vehicles are no longer safe.

The recommendation follows a two-year study that measured snowmobile safety on Quebec's ice floes.

Dogsleds are a safer option for ice that may have weak spots because of melting due to their lesser weight. Also, dogs can sniff out dangerous areas of the ice and avoid plunging into the cold water.

It's not clear what, if any, impact or change the report will have on Inuk habits when out on the land.

Jays and Hawks champs in Fast Pitch Tournament

The Chisasibi Jays overpowered all comers in their community's Second Annual Invitational Softball Fast Pitch Tournament, winning six straight games in the men's tourney and capping the championship by shutting down the Eastmain Fireballs July 15 with a final score of 4-0. On the women's side, the Chisasibi Hawks defeated both women's local teams, winning against the Chisasibi Nouchimiin in the finals by a score of 15-7. The MVPs were the Jays' Darren Moar for men's fast ball and Leanne Head for the Hawks in women's softball.

Bears Midget AA Tryouts

The Cree Nation Midget AA hockey club will be hosting a tryout camp for the 2007-08 season August 24-26 at the Sarah Stephen Memorial Arena in Waskaganish. The camp is open to any midget-aged players along with last year bantam from any community within the Cree Nation. For application forms, drop by any local sport and recreation departments and prepare a \$100 inscription fee by check or money order addressed to: Cree Nation Bears Midget AA Hockey Club. All players are asked to bring the following to the camp: original birth certificate, health insurance card, copy of last year's report card, hockey equipment, gym wear, as well as a copy of application for sponsorship to the Cree School Board for on-reserve sponsorship.

Healing Conference

The first Cree Healing Conference will be held on Fort George Island August 27-30. Each day of the conference is organized by theme: August 28 focuses "The Individual"; August 29 "The Family"; August 30 "The Community as a Nation." The workshops will deal with the various aspects of community development and progress. Presenters will include Elders, various special guests, and keynote speakers from across Eeyou Istchee. Natasha Bates-Chewanish and James Bobbish worked with Cree Health Board Director Diane Reid to make the conference possible.

O-J races: pedal power for cash prizes

Ouje-Bougoumou will host a day-long mountain bike competition August 2 with cash prizes on offer for the fastest peddlers. Featuring six open competitions, the event will start at 9 am with the children competing until they reach the minor and senior competitions. For minors aged 13 to 17, the entry fee will be \$10 to race over a 10 km trail around the village. Both boys and girls are invited. For men and women aged 18 and up the entry fee will be at \$20. The men's trails measure 20 km and the women's 10 km. Awards for the event will be presented at 5 pm.

Waskaganish council candidates

Waskaganish has announced the candidates for their upcoming election on August 14. Please note that voting will be between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm that day at the Gathering Place. Advance polls will take place at the same time and place on August 9. Here is the official list, as provided by Returning Officer John Henry Wapachee.

Candidates for the office of Chief:

Gordon Blueboy
Ian Diamond
Jack Diamond Sr.
Susan Esau
Billy Katapatuk
Simeon Trapper

Sarah D. Blacksmith
Marty Cowboy
Shirley Diamond
Hugo Hester
Walter Hester Jr.
James A. Jonah Jr.
Lawrence Katapatuk Jr.
Bessie MacLeod
Gertie Murdoch
Ethel Taylor
Sanders Weistche
Samson Wischee

Candidates for the six Councillor positions:

Stacey Bear
Bert Blackned
Raymond Blackned



CREE-CANADA AGREEMENT HAILED BY ALL SIDES

UNANIMOUS CONSENT

HISTORY MADE IN \$1.4 BILLION DEAL THAT WILL ESTABLISH SELF-GOVERNMENT

By Will Nicholls

It was like night and day. Unlike to the announcement of another "nation-to-nation" agreement five years ago, the deal announced July 16 between the Crees and the federal government has met with universal approval.

The 20-year Agreement Concerning a New Relationship Between the Government of Canada and the Cree of Eeyou Istchee, which will see \$1.4 billion going to the Crees to assume certain federal JBNQA responsibilities and obligations, must be approved by the Cree people in a referendum. The general consensus is that there

should be little problem on the Cree side as ceding land or rivers isn't part of this Agreement.

"This is because of the hard work and preparation leading up to the Agreement," said Grand Chief Matthew Mukash. "The chiefs were involved at every stage and had input into the negotiations. It was an item on every Council/Board meeting." It will no doubt be a proud moment at this year's Grand Council/CRA Annual General Assembly.

"This agreement between Canada and the Grand Council of the Crees closes a chapter on the disputes of the past and turns the page to a new, mutually respectful future."

— The Honourable Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, on behalf of the Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians

"Canada and the Crees are for the first time setting up governmental relations between us under which we as the Cree Nation decide our own priorities and policies in respect to local and Cree Nation government. This Agreement is a major step in allowing the Crees to assume greater authority in the development of their Nation."

— Matthew Mukash



Matthew Coon Come

Danny Tomatuk and John Mamianskum

Kenny Blacksmith

The smiles and congratulations continued the next day as the timetable and conditions were revealed at a council/board meeting in Montreal. Over 50 per cent of those who vote must be in favour of the Agreement with a minimum of 25 per cent of the voting population in favour of it. Each Cree band council must pass a resolution authorizing a representative to acknowledge they are represented by the Grand Council and the CRA in the making of the Agreement and agree to be bound by it.

As Mistissini Chief John Longchap said, "With this Agreement multi-year plans are now possible. Before this the Cree bands were dependent on year-to-year funding. Economic development is now possible. Self sufficiency is possible through the two Agreements [provincial and federal]. We're seeing the fruits of past agreements that served as a pillar for the Cree Nation. Thank you to the negotiating team for their hard work and diligence in coming to an Agreement with the federal government."

Indeed the whole Agreement is a first in more ways than one. Don't expect the same problems that plagued the Paix des Braves. This might well be the first time that there aren't any Cree leaders who will fight the Agreement.

Mukash went on to say the Crees had received letters of support for the Agreement from the Naskapi, the Inuit via Makivik Corporation and the Quebec government through the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. This in itself shows the level of the preparation and desire on the part of all parties that went into making this Agreement possible.

It is what led Wemindji Chief Rodney Mark to say, "I absolutely approve of this Agreement. I respect the patience of the leadership and extend my congratulations to Grand Chief Matthew Mukash and Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff. I congratulate Bill Namagoose and his team for their work. As a result we can really plan our communities. Our community is going to endorse the referendum for a yes vote. The governance section is really empowering for our people."

His words were echoed by the other chiefs present when they spoke. Many also referred to the work of previous grand chiefs, chiefs and negotiators and the unity the Crees showed when they fought Hydro-Quebec's Great Whale project.

Basically, the Agreement is a 20-year advance with a ground-breaking Cree self-government agreement thrown in – and a lot of expensive court cases thrown out. Mukash could not say whether or not legal costs to the Crees would disappear entirely as there were a few cases left and it depended on how much work governance would take. The Agreement does not amend the JBNQA or significantly change any legislation.

There will be changes though to the Cree Naskapi Act and possibly amendments to others. Crees, their entities and businesses will still be able to access the programs and funding they always have. They can access any new programs unless those are covered in the Agreement. This means, for example, the Cree School Board and Cree Board of Health and Social Services will continue to receive and access funding and services as they always have.

"This historic agreement will have a significant impact on subsequent negotiations affecting aboriginal communities. It puts an end to 30 years of disputes and, among other things, will lead to the creation of a regional aboriginal government. My colleagues and I are delighted to have contributed to this agreement and represented the interests of the Cree."

– Robert Mainville, an attorney for the Cree with Montreal-based Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP law firm.

"The Cree negotiation team headed by Mr. Bill Namagoose deserves special mention for the commitment and dedication for their hard work to realize this day."

– Grand Chief Matthew Mukash at the July 16 press conference

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Chief Robert Weistche and Billy Diamond



Chiefs Lloyd Mayappo and Losty Mamianskum

The cash

The money will likely first be delivered in 2008 if there is a yes vote by the end of October or the beginning of November. The first payment will be \$1.05 billion. The second payment of \$100 million will arrive within 30 days of Royal Assent of the amendments to the Cree Nation of Quebec Act. A third payment of \$200 million will be given within 30 days of the Royal Assent of the Governance Legislation.

The governance section shows that Mukash delivered on his main election promise of two years ago. The Agreement empowers the CRA to pass bylaws as do band councils. It will also allow Cree citizens to make complaints to the Cree Naskapi Commission about the CRA in the same way they can now complain about band councils. This provides the same checks and balances for the new Cree Nation government as band councils are subject to.

It also lays out a process where Cree Nation governance will be a reality within five years of the signing of the Agreement. Quebec will be a part of these negotiations where their jurisdiction is involved. It means the Grand Council/Cree Regional Authority will act as a regional government on Category IA lands.

For Cree Nation Governance to become reality, the Cree will have to write a constitution reflecting Cree values and beliefs to serve as the fundamental law of the Nation.

The constitution will provide law enactment procedures, democratic procedures for election of leaders and their accountability to the Cree, financial accountability, structure and procedures of government, conflict of interest guidelines, public consultations, referenda and voting, access to information and amendment formulas – to name only a few. One can hope they are starting work on this already as the work load is heavy and the 5 years will be up before we know it. Much of this and the work to be done will be explained in community consultations.

The Grand Council will assume the responsibilities of the JBNQA administration of Justice, the Cree Trappers Association, Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association, Cree Native Arts and Crafts Association, manpower, training facilities, construction of community centres, essential sanitation services, fire protection, economic development agents and community affairs services. In assuming these obligations they will have to establish minimum regional standards that meet or exceed federal or provincial standards on essential sanitation and housing.

"When we started to unite together back in the 70s when the first development project came to our territory the strength came from our Elders and our people back then. It shows in how we have kept our culture, our traditional life and our language is still very strong. This Agreement sees the unfulfilled obligations of 1975 being implemented because we decided on an out-of-court settlement that led to the announcement of the Agreement. There are responsibilities that are going to be transferred to us and we will decide on the priorities. This Agreement shows we are still a united people."

– Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff

"In my view, self government is the critical foundation needed to build happy, healthy First Nation communities. This agreement is a positive step forward. There are many more chapters that need to be closed across the country in order to bring about the full expression of self-determination for all First Nations, and to close the poverty gap that exists between First Nations and Canadians."

– Assembly of First Nations
National Chief Phil Fontaine



Innovative in nature, Hôtel Chibougamau suggests that you try the dining room's featured dish, which changes every month; the dining room has a new specialty, too: espresso and cappuccino along with the traditional bowl of café au lait. Every other Friday, you can also enjoy a lunch buffet. Needless to say, our traditional Caesar salad and steak flam-bé, both prepared at your table, are always on the menu along with our delectable seafood.

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Manager

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Louise Wapachee, Chief John Kitchen, Matthew Coon Come

Chief Sam Bosum

Chiefs Rodney Mark and Robert Weistche

CRA granted vast new powers

The CRA will also have to "promote and preserve the culture, values and traditions of the Cree beneficiaries and the Cree bands." Other passages include the "respecting of the environment, including natural resources... respecting the prevention of pollution."

When there is a conflict between the local band bylaw and the CRA bylaw the CRA takes precedence. While this may appear to be a potential problem, Grand Council lawyer and negotiator Robert Mainville said this applies in the areas where the CRA has jurisdiction.

Mainville used the example of fire protection. Fire stations would be consolidated under regional bylaws and standardized. "The powers band councils enjoy under the Cree Naskapi Act are still maintained," Mainville said.

Band councils will also have to provide a copy of their annual budget to the CRA just as they have to send one to the Ministry of Indian Affairs. "We will need this to decide on the disbursement of money to bands," explained Bill Namagoose, the Cree's head negotiator.

Namagoose also pointed out that passage allowing the CRA to appoint a new auditor in certain cases is normally a ministerial power. "It's one we don't expect to use but it is significant we have this option," Namagoose said.

Mukash admitted this may become necessary for the Grand Council to establish a Cree version of a treasury board and an independent auditor because of the monies involved and the way they are to be used.

All local police forces will be consolidated into one regional police force, which will have jurisdiction over Category IA lands. They will continue to enforce the applicable laws of Canada and Quebec as well as the local band by-laws and CRA by-laws. This will lead to less accusations of local band interference in police matters. It will not mean though the new force is some sort of Cree version of the RCMP or FBI according to Mukash. It will mean a standardization of the police and the ability of the duties they have to carry out.

One of the areas of the JBNQA Justice section that will not be carried out is the construction of a federal prison for Crees. Namagoose said there is no need for one at this time as there are only six Cree federal prisoners. When the Agreement is up for renewal in 20 years this aspect can be revisited if the situation changes.

Community development

Canada has agreed to accept the transfer of Block "D" back to Chisasibi. This relates to the airport and the barge landing. The land is contaminated but Hydro-Quebec is



Robert Mainville

Chief Abraham Rupert



NEW PROPOSED AGREEMENT WITH FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

An Agreement was reached by Canada and the Grand Council of the Crees (Eeyou Istchee) dealing with certain past and future obligations of Canada to the Cree People in the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (1975). Grand Chief Matthew Mukash and Federal Minister Lawrence Cannon announced the proposed Agreement on July 16th, 2007 at a press conference in Montreal.

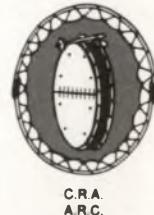
Originally signed in 1975, the JBNQA was Canada's first modern treaty. However, Canada and the Crees held different views on how to best see these obligations fulfilled. After years of trying to find common ground on the understanding of commitments made by the federal government, the negotiators for the Government of Canada and the Grand Council of the Crees reached an proposed agreement on these matters by engaging in talks of a new relationship between Canada and the Crees rather than continuing legal actions through the courts.

The agreement, entitled an *Agreement Concerning a New Relationship between the Government of Canada and the Cree of Eeyou Istchee*, includes a financial payment of \$1.4 billion to the Cree people, and seeks to clarify and allow for the implementation of certain of Canada's obligations under the JBNQA. The New Relationship Agreement also provides for further discussions on greater recognition of Cree governance in the territory.

If accepted by the Cree people, the Agreement would put an end to the need to be in court over the implementation of a number of federal obligations in the JBNQA. The Grand Council of the Crees will submit the Agreement to a referendum in all Cree communities.



ΔAPP• CEEYU
Cree Regional Authority
Administration régionale Crée
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(Δስኩ ዳስኩ)
Grand Council of the Crees
(Eeyou Istchee)
Grand conseil des Cris
(Eeyou Istchee)





Chief John Longchap

Deputy Grand Chief Ashley Iserhoff and John Paul Murdoch

Chief Josie Jimiken

cleaning it up. As Quebec must agree this is currently the subject of talks between Canada, Quebec and Chisasibi.

Ouje-Bougoumou may finally be officially recognized as a Cree community, but Quebec has to be part of that process.

Washaw Sibi and the CRA will look at their options. The Cree Nation Government will be responsible for implementing a solution to this community's status, including any costs. Canada and Quebec will be invited to participate in those talks.

The Agreement will not affect MoCreebec or its court cases. The reasoning is that MoCreebec is considered "out of the territory" (of the JBNQA) the Agreement restrictions do not apply.

Speaking of court cases, the Paix des Braves settled many outstanding lawsuits. This Agreement is no different in that respect. The costly Coon Come cases (1, 2 and 3) will be dropped. A portion of Coon Come #3 is currently part of negotiations and will continue to be an issue.

Two community specific court cases – the Bosum and Vanadium proceeding – are not affected by the Agreement.

Part of them deals with what applies in the JBNQA territory concerning the environment.

Avoiding the courts

Aside from the foregoing outstanding issues, the Crees agreed not to take Canada to court over anything related to "past implementation of the JBNQA by Canada."

To help ensure there are no more legal challenges over this Agreement there will be a mediation process established as well as a Cree-Canada Standing Liaison Committee. It will be the committee's job to make sure this Agreement is implemented.

Crees have learnt from past problems and this shows in the referendum process. Plans are being made for community consultations.

According to former Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come, consultations have already been held in Mistissini and Chisasibi. He said some people came to the afternoon session and others in the evening so it wasn't just a repeat for the same people. This means more people will be informed and able to understand the agreement.

AN HISTORIC AGREEMENT?

* The agreement puts an end to years of disputes

The Canada-Cree agreement puts an end to most Cree disputes in existence since the signing of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement (JBNQA) in 1975. These disputes concern claims totaling several billion dollars. The agreement also delegates certain federal obligations to the Cree for a 20-year period renewable according to the terms of subsequent negotiations. New federal transfers of up to \$1.4 billion will assist the Cree community in assuming these new obligations.

* The agreement provides for companion federal obligations to The Paix des Braves

The 2002 signing of the New Relationship Agreement by the Cree Nation and the Government of Quebec gave new momentum to relations between the Cree and Quebecers. However, that agreement required Canadian government involvement with respect to many of the commitments made by Quebec. The Canada-Cree agreement helps clarify the Canadian government's role in settling pending matters with Quebec.

* The agreement provides a framework for negotiations that will lead to the creation of a new regional aboriginal government

The Canada-Cree agreement is groundbreaking in that it provides a framework for negotiations that will lead to the creation of an aboriginal regional government. The agreement describes the process for discussions between the Cree, the Canadian government, and the Quebec Government with a view to developing a regional Cree governance model. In addition, the agreement transfers a number of legal, economic development, and community development obligations under the JBNQA from the federal government to the Cree Regional Authority.



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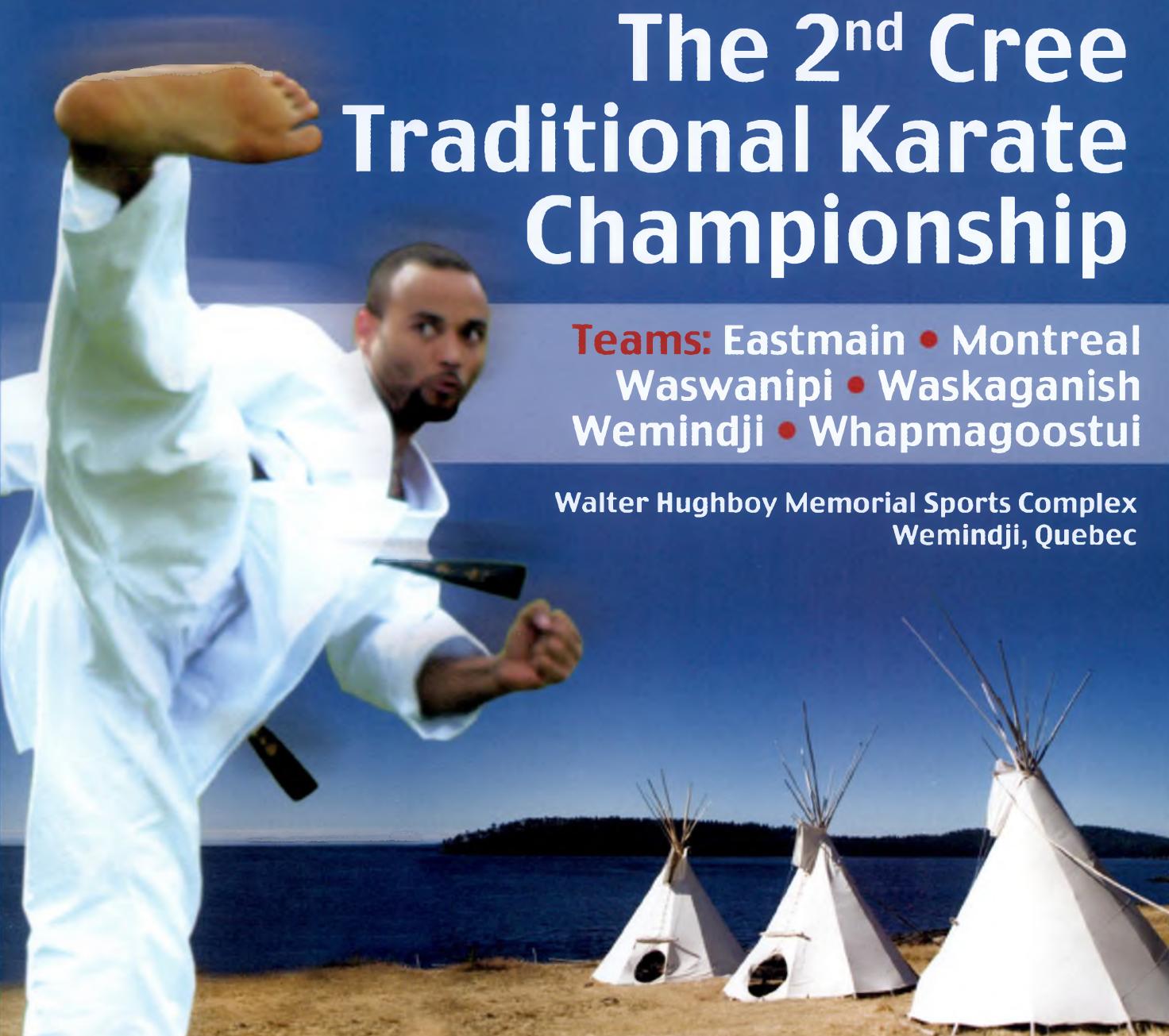


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Howard Hester, Stuart Wapachee



Real Courcelles, Philippe Mora,
Helene Tellier, Andre Tessier



Robert Desautels, Denis Paradis,
Serge Pelletier, Louis St-Arnaud

On July 12 **Niskamoon Corporation** held a friendly golf tournament and ceremony to honor the first group of 22 graduates from the **Automated Systems Electro-Mechanics** and **Industrial Construction and Maintenance Mechanics Programs**. Also present to share this special event were the 7 graduates from the **Waska Lineman Training Program**.



Mr. and Mrs. Chief John Longchap, Jack Blacksmith, Gordon Blackned



T.E.H.Q. Graduates - Isik Mapachee, Alan Fireman, Frankie Tapiatic, Leslie Mettawashish



Niskamoon Corporation wanted to underline the hard earned success of these graduates by inviting them to play some golf and have dinner with everyone who has contributed in making these programs of study possible for the **Cree Nation**. Participants included local **Chiefs**, people from the **Grand Council of the Crees, Cree School Board, Hydro-Quebec, Waska Resources, SEBJ**, and many other people who came to have a great day at the **Club de Golf Belvedere** in Val d'Or!

On behalf of the graduates and Niskamoon Corporation Staff, thank you for your support and participation at this special event!

We would like to give special thanks to Tim Whiskeychan for providing us with this beautiful painting that was given as a door prize.



Leanne Richmond, Kenneth Gilpin, Stanley Gilpin



Niskamoon T.E.H.Q. Program Graduates



Waska Linemen Graduates



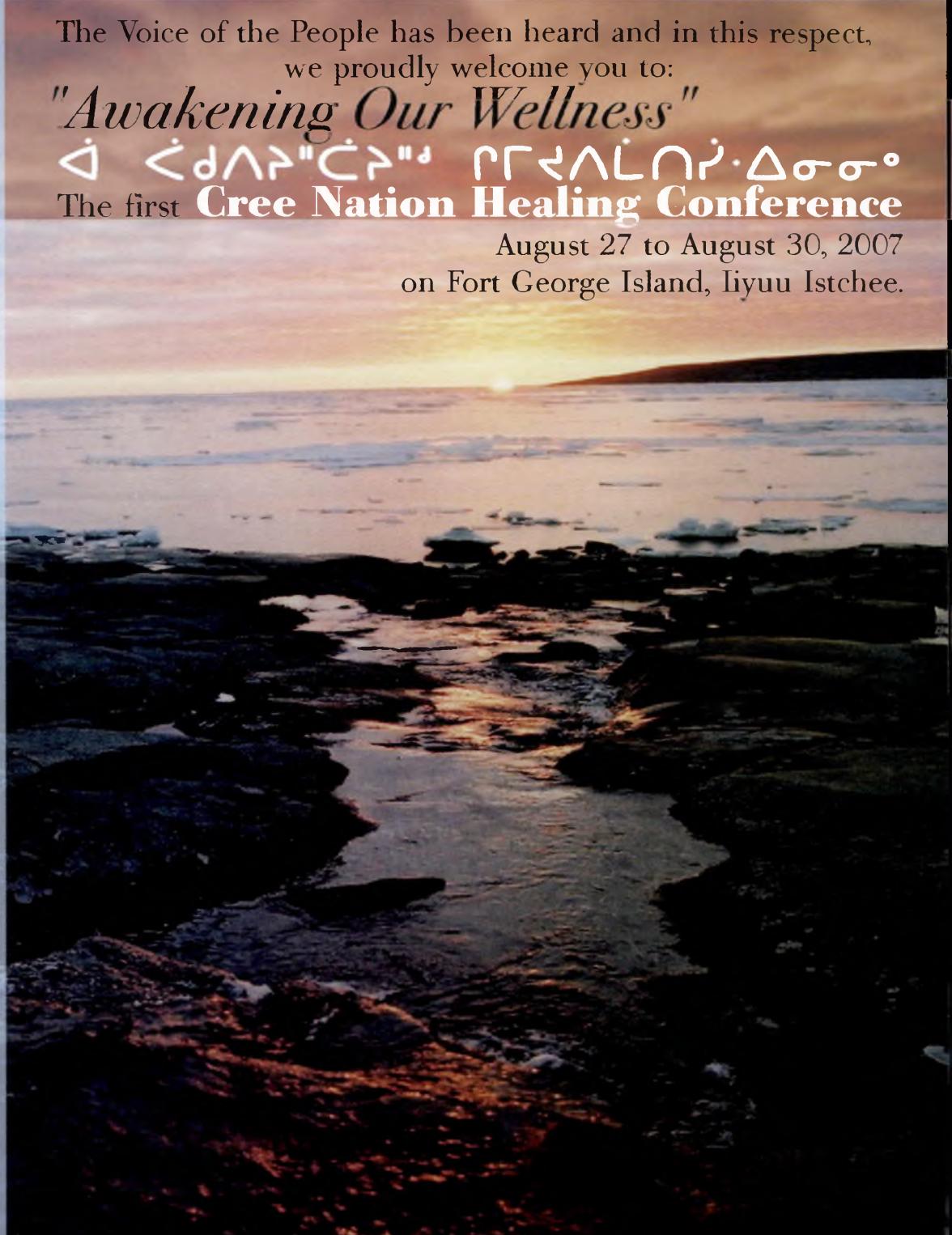
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The first **Cree Nation Healing Conference**

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We welcome you to participate in identifying ways we can help ourselves and help others to establish our healing journeys for the future of our children and our grandchildren.

Welcoming and Registration:

Monday, August 27, 2007

Tuesday, August 28th

Theme: *The Individual*

Wednesday, August 29th

Theme: *The Family*

Thursday, August 30th

Theme: *The Community
as a Nation*

For information on Workshop Facilitation, Presentations and Registration for the Conference, please contact the Regional Coordinator, Natasha Bates-Chewanish at creehealing@hotmail.com or at 819-855-9016 and fax at 819-855-2147.

We will be honoured with the presence of Elders, Special Guests, Keynote Speakers, and Workshop Facilitators from across the Iiyuu/Eenou Istchee.

Call for Presenters and Facilitators for Workshops: If you are Iiyuu/Eenou and you are confident you can manage a workshop of 20 to 40 people centered on the daily themes. We encourage you to request for a Presenter/Facilitator Form with the Regional Coordinator.

The deadline for registration for the Cree Nation Healing Conference is August 15, 2007. Registration forms will be available at your local Band Councils.

The deadline for submissions for facilitation of workshops and presentations is Friday, August 17, 2007.

This historic conference would not have been possible without the participation and contribution of many individuals and organizations within Iiyuu/Eenou Istchee.

CHIEFS RESPOND TO \$1.4 BILLION DEAL

Here is what some of the Chiefs of other aboriginal communities and groups are saying about the \$1.4 billion agreement. The deal, signed July 16 between Canada and the Cree Grand Council, will give the Crees control over services such as policing while paving the way for self-government negotiations.

Phil Fontaine, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations:

"I applaud the Grand Council of the Crees and the government of Canada for reaching their \$1.4 billion settlement. This deal was over 30 years in the making and was originally promised in the James Bay Agreement of 1975.

"Both Quebec and Canada have reaped huge economic rewards since thousands of square kilometres of traditional Cree lands were flooded to make way for the James Bay hydro-electric project. Finally, the Crees will begin to receive their full benefits as well.

"This agreement is a positive step forward. There are many more chapters that need to be closed across the country in order to bring about the full expression of self-determination for all First Nations, and to close the poverty gap that exists between First Nations and Canadians."

Peggy Mayo, Band Councilor, Kahnawake Mohawk Territory:

"I thought it was something very, very good for the Cree Nation. I think with the more power they will have, more power to them. I can see them becoming an independent nation within a country. I'm very happy for them and very proud of the agreement that they worked very hard to get.

"Off the top of my head \$1.4 billion over 20 years sounds like a lot of money. But I'm not sure if that's the right amount they should have got, it probably should have been more. But at this stage if they are satisfied with it, who am I to judge it?"

Terrance Nelson, Chief, Roseau River First Nation...

"They've signed agreements in the past where it came to nothing. When you look at \$1.4 billion over 20 years it's not a hell of a lot. Especially when you consider what Canada and Quebec will be getting out of the area in the next 20 years. The government and industry and everybody is probably going to be getting at least a hundred times more than that from that area in terms of the resources. So they probably got about a one per cent deal.

"It's [self-government] certainly more achievable now. But it depends on us, not Canada. It is based on our capability to get a percentage of our resource base. Government funding won't help to achieve that goal. If they had an agreement that gave them 10 per cent of the resource base in their area, that would be a hell of a lot more than \$1.4 billion. In the way it is now, their resource wealth goes to Ottawa and then they have to apply to get their own wealth back."

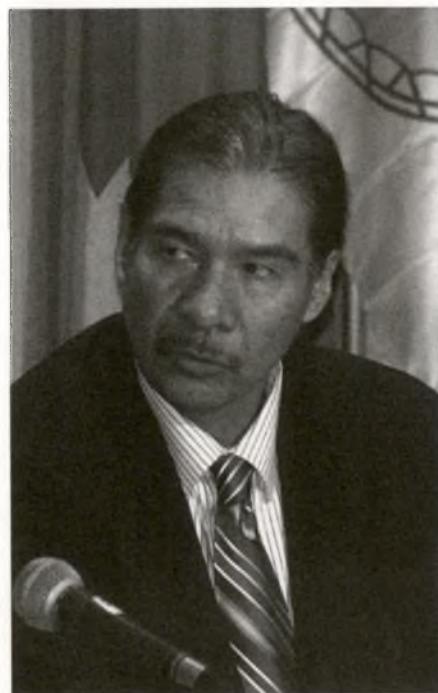
An information package will be available for any Cree who wishes one. The summary of the Agreement will be in the three languages used by the Cree of Eeyou Istchee.

The referendum question itself will be the same in all the communities and is: "Do you approve the proposed Agreement concerning a New Relationship between the Government of Canada and the Cree of Eeyou Istchee." Voters will mark yes or no. The question will be in Cree, English and French.

At the July 16 press conference, Dr. Billy Diamond asked if there was any danger of this Agreement falling by the wayside if the minority Conservative government lost power before it could be ratified. Mainville replied it was unlikely the Harper government would fall by November. He also said if the government withdrew, the court cases would resume and judges would tend to be very sympathetic in that case.

"It would be a dream case for a lawyer if that happened. In any case the chances of a withdrawal are very low," said Mainville.

When asked by George Wapachee if he had any words of caution, Mainville replied, "There are people who may try to upset the apple cart. When Nunavik came into being some people tried to stop the referendum. We are ready and able to handle those contingencies."



Grand Chief Matthew Mukash

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Trans Canada Bike Trail					
Sault Ste. Marie	Holiday Inn Waterfront	\$159.00	705-949-0611	Agawa Canyon Tour Train	Lock Tours Canada
Toronto	Holiday Inn Airport East	\$149.00	416-240-7511	Canada's Wonderland	Wild Water Kingdom
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ECHOES OF A PROUD NATION

by Will Nicholls

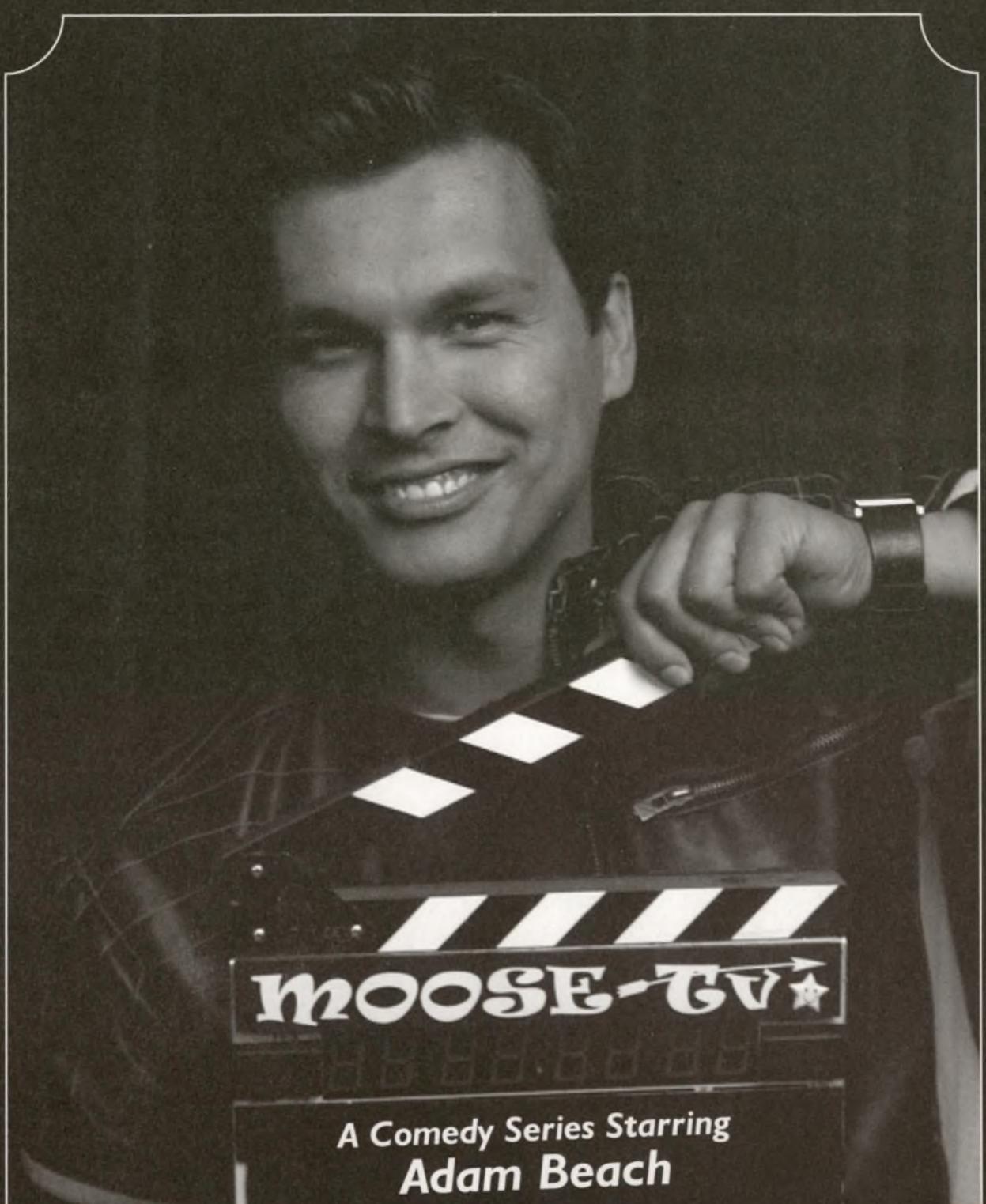
Back in 1991 the Mohawk community of Kahnawake decided to host a pow wow on the same patch of land that had been occupied by the Canadian Armed Forces the previous summer. That long summer of 1990, of course, was dominated by the Oka Crisis, when Kanesatake Mohawks set up barricades to stop the town of Oka from expanding a golf course onto the cemetery that Kanesatake claimed as ancestral territory.

An armed confrontation ensued between Kanesatake's protesters and the Surete du Quebec, prompting Mohawks from the nearby community of Kahnawake to blockade the access roads that led through their community to Montreal's Mercier Bridge.

After that long and bitter confrontation, Kahnawake wanted to change the world's perception of Mohawks. The pow wow was promoted as an opportunity for Natives and non-Natives to come together in a spirit of friendship, sharing and a way to heal the wounds of Oka. It was a huge success attended by thousands of aboriginal and non-aboriginal people alike.

They have succeeded as year after year the pow wow continues to attract thousands of people. This year as in the past was one of enjoyment, seeing old friends and making a few new ones.





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habits which can prevent, in the long run, diabetes and different sicknesses."

Many Eeyouch have settled into a rather sedentary lifestyle. Fewer people live off the land, while bad habits of buying pop and other unhealthy foods at the grocery store have drastically increased.

It's an uphill struggle, but Sabourin tips her cap to George, who is making a difference one meal at a time.

"It's important when kids are young to make them try different foods and ingredients. When they're young they develop their taste and it's good for them to try different things. Children can be very open," she said.

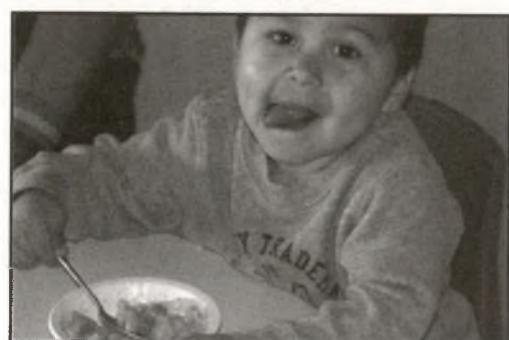
Sabourin coordinates cooking classes and grocery tours to get the healthy word out in Whapmagoostui. The community is holding an eating habit challenge on the local radio called "Try it, do it, keep it," which Sabourin helped to coordinate.

"Families have to choose between three different challenges," she said. "For one week they would drink only water. Then for another week the whole family could walk together for 15 minutes after dinner. Or for one week they should try not to eat fried food."

Although Sabourin said it is still too early to give the community a passing or failing grade on healthy living, she sees hope for the future with people like Nelly George leading the way.

"Nelly is an inspiration and example to others that it's possible to cook healthy and to have the kids try and eat new things."

"IT'S IMPORTANT WHEN KIDS ARE YOUNG TO MAKE THEM TRY DIFFERENT FOODS AND INGREDIENTS. WHEN THEY'RE YOUNG THEY DEVELOP THEIR TASTE AND IT'S GOOD FOR THEM TO TRY DIFFERENT THINGS. CHILDREN CAN BE VERY OPEN."



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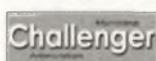
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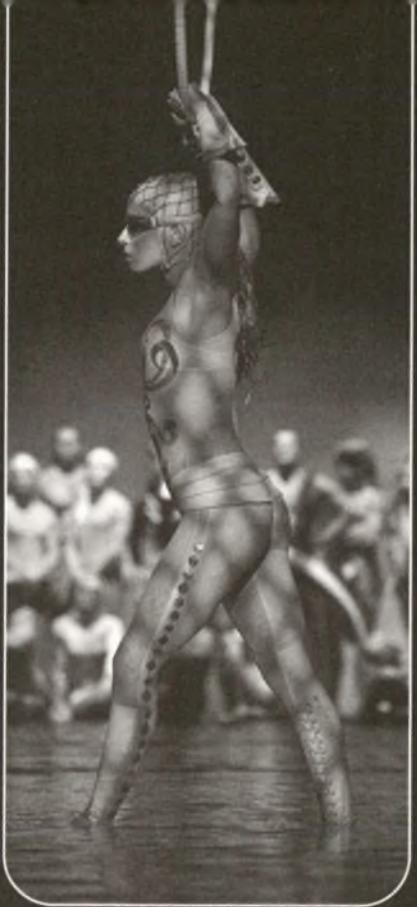
Cirque de Soleil's aquatic Las Vegas show 'O'-mazing

by Steve Bonspiel

If "O" stood for outstanding, Quebec-based Cirque de Soleil's spectacular aquatic show at the Bellagio in Las Vegas would be selling itself short. The name actually stands for 'eau', which is the French word for water – and for good reason. Most of the show is done from the blue abyss.

Spectacular! Awesome! Amazing! Those words combined barely express how beautiful and entertaining a show that uses 1.5 million gallons of water can be. You really have to see it for yourself.

As per usual, the stage that was tailored uniquely for the show is versatile and mind-boggling. At its best, it submerges from a fully functional theatre stage to a massive pool.





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Many of the performers are former Olympians, some of whom have won medals in aquatic events. Former Synchronized Swimming Olympian Sylvie Fréchette put together the aquatic synchronization part of the show.

At one point, two clowns come floating into the picture, washed them away by a flood and sitting somberly on what used to be their home. Their comedic antics and sullen mood as they fight for what little space they have left made the audience laugh and feel sad for them at the same time. Very well done.

A highly qualified team of 14 fully certified scuba divers supervises each underwater portion of the show. Equipped with headsets in their scuba gear, nothing is left to chance.

The costumes were designed to mimic the era of romance and in particular the trends during that period in the city of Venice.

A duo and single trapeze act could possibly be the first time a trapeze portion of any show works so closely with water.

The strength of the twin duo performers is awe-inspiring. Their gravity-defying moves take place under a makeshift pirate ship that acts as a roving stage. The crowd gasped as it seemed almost certain they would fall into the water after missing their connection. But this is Cirque de Soleil, so it never happened.

If anything, this show should be known for its creative stages. At one point a half dozen performers, whose costumes can best be described as a cross between the old Predator movies and something out of a Dr. Seuss book, lie on their stomachs on a metal grid with two-foot spaces in between the seven long pipes that hold them in place. Meanwhile, their partners, who they are holding onto with one hand underneath, swing about, performing tricks with unbelievable strength and agility. It was a treat to watch.

Another cool act saw divers catapulted from a moving platform high into the air, flip, rattle and roll and then splash into the water below. The height they reached had the audience holding their breath until they hit the water. They repeated the stunt over and over, at least two dozen times, to similar reaction each time.

The sheer power and grace the performers possess made many an audience member want to head to the gym and buff up a little bit. From start to finish, Cirque de Soleil's "O" is well worth the money and is one of the must-see events while you are visiting Las Vegas.

"O" required three years to develop and opened in late 1998. The 1800-seat theatre sells out every night, so if you want to see the show, it's good to plan a couple of months ahead. Tickets can be pricey, but the show is worth every penny. For more information, visit <http://www.cirquedusoleil.com>.





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2. Tiffany Charles
3. Jordana Kitchen

Whapmagoostui - General Upgrading

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Vocational Programs

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2. John Gilpin
3. Victor Matacham
4. Eliza Moses
5. Duane Shanoush
6. Keith Shanoush
7. Geraldine Weapenicappo

Waskaganish - Landscaping

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2. Rose Pepabano
3. Anthony Hester

Waswanipi - Forestry Management

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2. Ricky Blacksmith
3. Ronald Blacksmith
4. George Bowen
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6. Darrell Cooper
7. Johnson Dixon
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3. Frankie Dick
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10. Andrew Petagumskum
11. David Petagumskum
12. Larry Wapachee



UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

Shee-kak, or the one who squirts

by Xavier Kataquapit

There are only a handful of animals that we fear on the James Bay coast. Most of these creatures are strong and powerful. These include the black bear and polar bear mainly because they can easily outrun a person on just about any terrain. Wolves and wolverines are considered dangerous as they are strong enough to maim or kill a person. However, as powerful as these animals can be, they seldom create problems for us. In fact, these large animals are just as fearful of us as we are of them most of the time.

Bears of any type, including the large polar bear, will come near camps but will mainly want to scavenge for garbage, waste or harvested wild meat that is kept outdoors. Sighting wolves is a rare thing, as these animals will smell the scent of strangers before they are seen and they will generally avoid people. Normally, even though hunters, trappers and traditional people may spend months in the wilderness, they rarely have trouble with most animals.

The one animal that seems to cause us the most fear and consternation is the "Shee-kak," the Cree name for the striped Skunk. As a matter of fact, the English name "skunk" is derived from the Algonquian word for the animal "seganku," meaning "one who squirts," which shares similar roots to the Cree name.

I remember one trip along the coast after a successful moose hunt. We camped on the shore of James Bay and we spread out our butchered meat in the open air under a large tarp to keep it from spoiling. In the morning our camp of hunters was a spectacle of agitated men in T-shirts and rubber boots running away from a shuffling little Shee-kak that wanted a piece of wild moose meat. No one dared go near the striped Shee-kak, so from a safe distance we all hollered, screamed and threw sticks and stones to chase away our unwelcome visitor. Nobody dared to shoot the animal as it would have made a foul stench and have ruined our tent, the tarp and the meat.

In the wild, Shee-kak is a fearless character because this small animal the size of a cat has a powerful defence system that everyone avoids. Shee-kak has two small scent glands near its anus that it uses to discharge a powerful noxious smelling musk at potential threats or attackers. Many people may have never had the

chance to see Shee-kak in real life but just about everyone has smelled the odour of one of their discharges.

However, this creature will only use this defensive measure as a last resort. A first line of defence is to show itself to everyone. Shee-kak does not have camouflage rather it is solid black with a white stripe so as to make itself visible to everyone. That look is unmistakeable and so is the power of his spray. If showing off does not work, Shee-kak will hiss, growl and stamp its feet. When all this fails, he will turn his rear end towards an attacker and spray away.

The spray itself is made up of several chemicals but the primary one is known as trans-2-butene-1-thiol. The smell is powerful enough to be detected up to a kilometre away but when you come into contact with it the spray is strong enough to irritate skin or eyes and cause nausea. Shee-kak can be accurate enough with its spray up to about three metres and it will aim primarily at the face of an oncoming animal or person. If he has no obvious target then it will spray a fine mist that the individual will walk into.

I have never had the misfortune of being sprayed by Shee-kak, nor do I ever want to. I have come close to pets, clothing and places where Shee-kak has done his work and it is noxious for days. Prospectors' tents can reek for years if they are sprayed by Shee-kak. I have heard of several remedies for this smell. The most common one being tomato juice but it is not so dependable.

Apparently, when you are sprayed, your nose can only take so much and then it literally shuts down in what is known as olfactory fatigue, which makes us think that our remedies are working, whatever they may be. A more technical and scientific method that is known to work is to mix a three percent solution hydrogen peroxide with a quarter cup of baking soda and a teaspoon of liquid dishwashing soap. This solution changes the chemical composition of the musk to make it soluble in water and allow it be washed away.

Probably the best thing to do is to avoid Shee-kak altogether. Just let him go on his merry old way.

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHDAYS – 101

I would like to wish a "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" to my grandchildren Bailey (Aug. 8), Stacey (Aug. 9), Graham (Aug. 12), Jamal (Aug. 19), Brayden (Aug. 22) and Taylor (Aug. 26). May you all have many, many more birthdays ahead. I love you all!
Love: Googoo

My baby girl celebrated her birthday on July 11. I remember the day you were born, you just didn't want to come out, oh how I pushed and pushed! Finally you decided to make an entrance into this world. As I held you in my arms, what joy I felt and I made a promise that I would always take good care of you. As you celebrated your 19th birthday, I thanked the Lord for giving me YOU. As you journey in life, my baby,

there will be many obstacles, may you make wise decisions/choices. No one can make them for you. So, HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY and many more to come. Remember when I told you that you were born on my belly button, that was a LIE. Remember when you asked why you had dark skin and I told you when I was breastfeeding you, I had chocolate milk in my breasts, that was a LIE. Remember

when you asked me if you would always be my baby, I said yes, that was the TRUTH. Remember when I told you that I love you, lots, that was the TRUTH. (These are the questions you would ask me when you were small.) Happy 19th Birthday Sherry-Ann!
Love always, Mom

Birthday greetings going out to my sisters Lorna Wesley in Timmins, ON



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whose birthday is July 7th. I hope you have some fun! Greetings to my 2nd sister Judy Capassosit in Ouje-Bougoumou, QC whose birthday is on July 12th. I hope you enjoy your day! I miss our sister talks, our laughs and your cheap jokes. I love the both of you so dearly. From your youngest sister in M.F. Betz. Also from Ryan, Bryanna and Carina Weapenicappo.

Wishing happy birthdays to my two sons and my loving wife: jean-paul july 12, hattie july 14 and benoit july 17.

Happy birthday you guys many more to come. Love always, Dad (johnny blacksmith)

Happy 86th Birthday to my Grandma Nancy Blacksmith on June 25 2007 and many more to come. Thanks for everything Goo-kum for all your love, support and encouragement. Luv you and Joom-shum, Nee Chaloote

Congratulations - 104

Congratulations to our son Ryan William George Weapenicappo who

graduated from Moose Factory Ministik Elementary School. Ryan received two awards: the Principal's Award for Student Leadership and the John Delaney Graduation Award. We are so proud of you and keep on smiling, be friendly to others and work hard. Good luck in Grade 9! Love, from your parents Donald Weapenicappo and Betsy Wesley; also from Bryanna and Carina.

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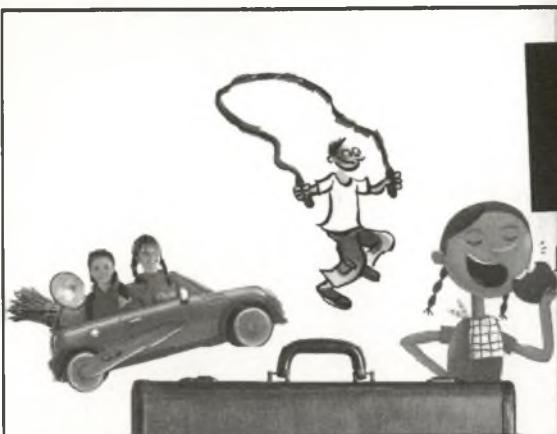
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